THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) No case complete in all respects eligible for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension duly verified and recommended by the State Governments is pending in the Ministry, except 1182 verification reports received recently from Government of Andhra Pradesh in respect of cases recommended by the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee relating to Hyderabad Liberation Movement, as on 31.10.2003. While efforts are made to dispose of these cases as early as possible no time frame can be indicated.

(c) On a specific complaint passed on to CBI by MHA that two staff members of Freedom Fighters Division of MHA had demanded bribe for clearing a pension cases of a freedom fighter, CBI had laid a trap to nab them red-handed. One of them, Shri Harbhajan Dass, Assistant, was caught red-handed on 25.07.2003. A case has been registered against the officials under the relevant provisions of the IPC/ Prevention of Corruption Act.

Communal Clashes

150. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of communal clashes, that took place all over India during 1998—2003;

(b) the number of persons killed in those incidence; and

(c) the quantum of property loss in terms of money in those incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, this information is not maintained centrally by the Government.

Invitation to Hurriyat Leaders for Discussions

151. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have decided to invite Hurriyat leaders for discussions with him on Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what has been the response of Hurriyat leaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) The Government has offered to have meeting with the Hurriyat Conference at the level of the Deputy Prime Minister. The modalities and time for the meeting would be decide after considering all relevant aspects

(b) The Hurriyat led by Maulvi Abbas Ansari has announced its decision to accept the offer of a dialogue. Some members of the SAS Geelani faction have reportedly not supported the stand of the Hurriyat.

Spurt in Infiltration in J and K

152. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a spurt in infiltration by terrorists from across the Line of Control in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the months of July to September, 2003 as a result of which there was an increase in terrorist related cases of violence;

(b) if so, the number of civilians killed and injured during the period from 1-7-2003 till date and the number of terrorists and their local sympathizers killed and injured during the same period, separately; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to control, contain and eliminate terrorism from the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) As per the assessment made by various agencies and security forces, there has been an increase in the infiltration of terrorists from across the Line of Control/International border during the months of July, August and September 2003 compared to corresponding period last year. The State Government has reported that the infiltration bids foiled by Security Forces on LoC/IB during this period have been 17 in which 68 terrorists including 59 foreign terrorists got killed. However, terrorist violence witnessed a marginal decline as compard to last year during this period. There were 1057 terrorist violence incidents during July to September 2003 as against 1189 during the same period last year.

(b) From July 1 to November 15, 2003, 331 civilians (including members of VDCs and SPOs) were killed and 733 injured. However, 677 terrorists were killed during the same period in the State.